councils. Till permission is renewed they are not supposed to admit fresh batch of students.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian label on food items

2940. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make it compulsory to label all food articles as vegetarian or non-vegetarian;

(b) if so, the purpose of such labelling; and

(c) by when this measure would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These labelling provisions will provide vital information about the nature of food being purchased by the consumer for consumption, in terms of whether the food is Vegetarian or Non-Vegetarian, for making an informed choice.

(c) The provisions of labelling of Non-Vegetarian food will come into force w.e.f. 4.10.2001. As regards labelling of Vegetarian food, the draft rules seeking to amend the PFA Rules 1955, were published in the Gazette of India on 16th May 2001, inviting comments from public. On the basis of comments received the draft final rules have been formulated and will be notified shortly.

Menace of Addiction to Prescription Drugs

2941. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the menace of addiction to prescription drugs is on the increase in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prescription drug abuse is more in the case of sedatives and cough syrups among students; and